

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2001 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: 8

I. Project Title: Basin Wide Stream Gage Operation & Maintenance

II. Principal Investigator:
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III. Project Summary:

In 1990, the Recovery Program first identified a need for a permanent USGS gage in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. The gage was installed during the summer of 1991 and became operational on October 1, 1991. The gage was needed to ensure that water secured under the Recovery Program is delivered to the 15-Mile Reach. In 1996, the Recovery Program again identified a need for gages on the Yampa River, and the USGS installed gages above and below the confluence with the Little Snake River. Annual gage operation and maintenance are provided by the USGS under contract with the CDOW. The gage on the Colorado River was very helpful in 2001 in the management of releases from Colorado River mainstem reservoirs such as Ruedi, Green Mountain, Williams Fork, and Woford to augment flows in the 15-Mile Reach. The gages on the Yampa River were used for monitoring river conditions and releases from Steamboat Lake and Stagecoach Reservoir.

IV. Study Schedule: Initial Year - 1990, Final Year - Ongoing

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem; I.A.5; Provide and legally protect instream flows pursuant to Colorado River PBO

Green River Action Plan:

Duchesne River; I.A; ID Year-round flow needs for recovery

Yampa River; I.A.1; ID fish habitat and flow needs

VI. Accomplishments of 2001 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

The USGS operates and maintains the gages as specified in their Cooperative Agreement with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. USGS produces daily flow and temperature records, which will be published in the annual Water Resource paper for Colorado. Interim data are available by FAX from the Grand Junction USGS office, 303-245-5257. Near real-time data from the gages can also be found on the Internet @ <http://water.usgs.gov/co/nwis/current/?type=flow>

- VII. Recommendations: In last years Progress report I recommended that the gage on the Yampa river above Deerlodge Park be discontinued in 2002. However based upon discussions with the Division Engineer who has been found the gage to be very useful in administering releases from Steamboat Lake and a need to have gaging information available to support Yampa Management Plan the Recovery Programs Management Committee decided to continue funding of the gage for several more years.
- VIII. Project Status: On track and ongoing. The gages are operational and information is available from the Internet, Watertalk, and the USGS Water Resource paper for Colorado and Utah.

IX. FY 2001 Budget Status:

Station Name	Total Cost	UCRIP Cost	CUWCD Cost
Colorado River Near Palisade	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$0
Yampa River Above Little Snake	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$0
Yampa River Below Little Snake	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$0
Green River near Jensen (DCP & Tmp)	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Duchesne River near Randlett	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Duchesne River above Randlett	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
Uinta River at Randlett	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
Duchesne River near Randlett (Tmp)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Price River Flow and (Temp)	<u>\$9,700</u>	<u>\$9,700</u>	<u>\$0</u>
TOTAL:	\$47,900	\$42,900	\$5,000

A. Funds provided: \$42,900
 B. Funds expended: \$42,900
 C. Difference: \$ 0

- X. Status of Data Submissions: Not applicable.

- XI. Signed: George Smith December 10, 2001
 Principle Investigator Date